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STAY SAFE
SIDDHARTA

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR

CESC steps up bill collection drive

- Bike-borne staff make mike announcement
- Consumers asked to pay power bills at designated spots or at CESC cash counters from 9 am to 12 noon

Bike-borne CESC staff making public announcement in Krishnamurthypuram yesterday.

Mysuru, Apr.22 (RK&DM)- At a time when many were hoping for relaxation on paying monthly electricity bills in the backdrop of nationwide lockdown, the Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Company (CESC) has issued a circular asking everybody to pay their electricity bills without fail.

Amidst Coronavirus scare and the lockdown, the CESC that had till now given some relief to consumers who were unable to pay their electricity bills at the different divisions of CESC, has resorted to resource mobilisation by speeding up bill collection drive. Till now, there was stress only on online payments but now, the CESC has asked consumers to pay the bills at some designated spots in the layouts and at the reopened cash counters of Sub-Divisional Offices.

Not only this, public announcements are being made by bike-borne CESC staff exhorting the consumers inside Mysuru city to visit the nearest CESC Office or the designated place, as announced by them in residential areas, to pay the dues.

As per the announcement, bills can be paid from 9 am to 12 noon by consumers wearing masks and after maintaining social distance as is the norm now. These announcers are going to each area and asking the residents to pay the electricity bills.

In rural areas like in Kodagu, dedicated CESC staff are calling the mobile numbers of consumers registered with CESC and requesting for bill payment. In Mysuru, all the CESC cash counters have been opened to facilitate the bill payment.

Average monthly power consumption

CESC has issued power bills of March 2020 only to industries, based on actual meter reading. But the bills of other power consumers coming under commercial, domestic and other categories have been generated based on average monthly power consumption and sent through e-mail and mobile phone numbers of respective consumers. Based on e-mail and mobile messages, power consumers can make digital payments from the convenience of their home.

(See CESC on page 6)

'Mysuru will be Virus-free District soon'

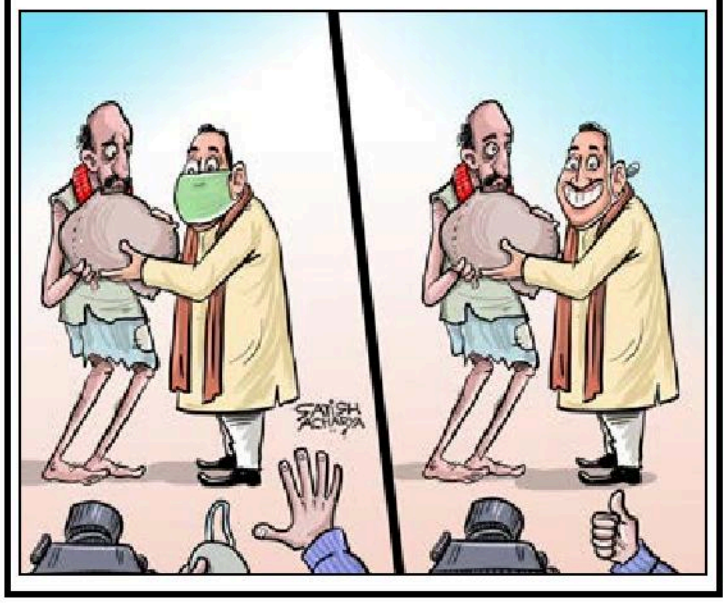
Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar holds meeting with District officials and people's reps

Mysuru, Apr.22 (RKB&DM)- Expressing confidence that Mysuru will become a Corona-virus-free district soon, Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar said that strictly following lockdown regulations and maintaining social distance was vital for stopping the spread of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

He was speaking to pressperson after holding a COVID-19 meeting with District-level officials and people's representatives at the Zilla Panchayat Hall here yesterday, in which District Minister S.T. Somashekar too took part. Pointing out that senior citizens are vulnerable to the deadly virus, Dr. Sudhakar said that it was important to ensure that persons aged over 60 years do not come out of their homes for their own safety.

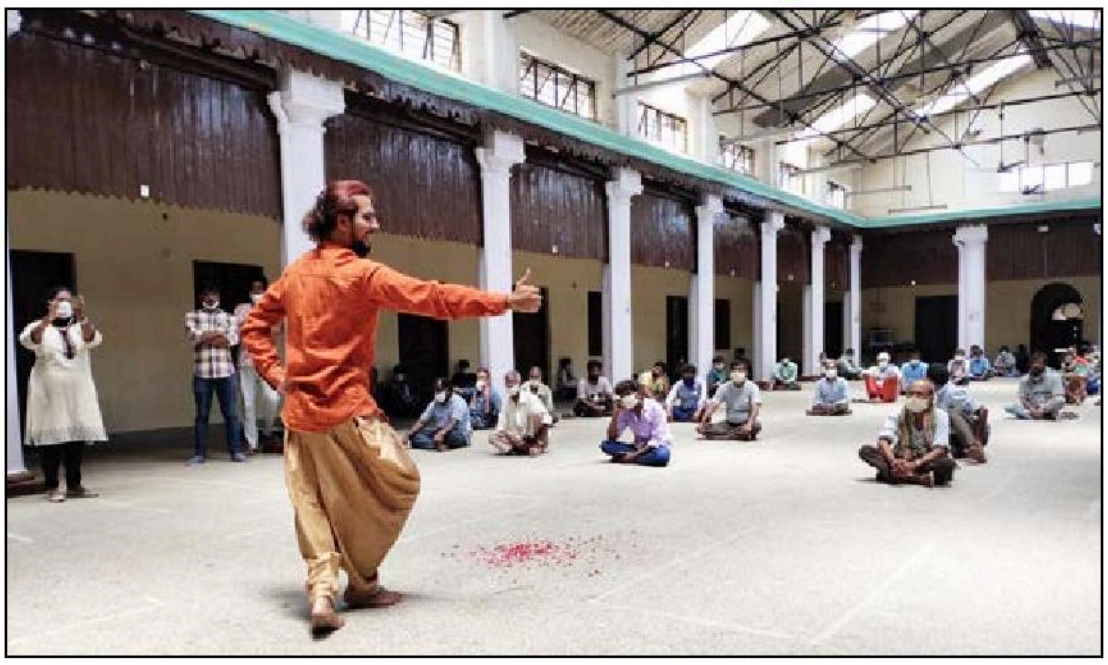
(See VIRUS-FREE on page 3)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



Their lives are shattered but not cultural skills...

In times of COVID-19, migrant workers display positive energy



By Rajkumar Bhavasar

Mysuru, Apr. 22- There was a sudden dramatic turn world over for the last couple of months with the outbreak of deadly Coronavirus where everything came to a standstill virtually and literally as lockdown was the only mantra that came as a refuge to help contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to lockdown, while many employees who worked in shifts and those who worked late at night and who did not have the luxury of spending quality time with their families got some real good time to be home, there was another section of working class — the daily wagers and migrant workers — whose lives were shattered.

Lending a helping hand, the District Administration, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), along with NGOs and individual donors, housed such shelter-less people at various shelter camps across the city. Their basic needs like food, sanitation and shelter were taken care of.

The Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry Camp — now home for 73 people from different backgrounds — is not only providing meals and shelter to the homeless but is also providing wholesome entertainment like providing a platform for cultural activities to keep the depressed lot in good humour. These cultural activities create a positive energy in gloomy times.

Bringing out talent

It is a known fact that these people, who became unemployed with the lockdown in place, will not get jobs as soon as the lockdown is lifted. Hence, to help them earn some money, they are taught self-employment skills apart from teaching them aspects of culture including theatre training, singing and dancing. This is to keep them stress-free and also be entertained at least till they get back to their regular jobs.

While some are experts in singing folk songs, some are no less than any playback singers. There are also experts in games like Chowkabhaara, carom etc. Some people, who are interested in theatre, have conceptualised a play titled 'Corona Bedanna' and are busy practicing the same under the guidance of artiste Santosh.

Creative way to kill time

Dr. M.P. Varsha, Managing Trustee of Credit-I, who is leading this shelter camp, has turned the place into a hub of activities. "Donors are offering breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. But noting the personal interests of these people who are finding it hard to spend time, we thought why not draw them into cultural activities so that they will be physically and mentally active and at the same time healthy," said Dr. Varsha, speaking to *Star of Mysore*.'

"There is a TV in the shelter camp and we do get newspapers every day. But as most of the day is spent with no activity, we thought of preparing them for cultural activities. This shelter camp houses 73 people of whom 60 percent are quite educated. Each one is good in different art. Thus, we were able to draw them towards drama and other cultural activities," Varsha added.

Making paper bags

Speaking about post lockdown, Dr. Varsha said: "Now donors are providing food and clothing. But once the lockdown is lifted, how do they lead their life as there is no guarantee that they would get work as soon as the lockdown is over. At least Rs. 2,000 to Rs.2,500 should be there with them for their immediate needs till they find work. To that end, they have been trained in making paper bags. They make paper bags after breakfast and after lunch, they get involved in cultural activities."

"Many people and organisations are providing grocery kits to the needy and the kits can be prepared by members at this shelter camp. If the raw materials and food items are provided to make the kits, our centre members can weigh the food and make compact kits. If they are given wages for the same, they too can earn some money, Dr. Varsha said.

Talks on mental health

To keep the physical and mental health of these people, Dr. Raveesh of Psychiatry Department in K.R. Hospital, has been giving talks on mental and physical health. Also, yoga and meditation are taught every morning. All these housed at the Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry are waiting to showcase what they have learnt here. On May 2 (lockdown ends on May 3) there will be cultural events at the Choultry. All the inmates are preparing to host various shows. One of the highlights being the play '*Corona Bedanna.*'

District Minister inspects Zoo, adopts female elephant 'Chamundi'

Mysuru, Apr. 22- District in-charge Minister S.T. Somashekar, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar and KR MLA S.A. Ramdas today inspected the Mysuru Zoo, which remains closed for visitors since the nationwide lockdown was announced.

He sought information from the Zoo authorities regarding the precautionary measures taken with regard to the outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic.

After inspecting the Zoo in the battery-operated vehicle, Somashekar, who is also the Co-operation Minister, adopted the five-year-old female elephant named 'Chamundi' for one year after paying the adoption fee of Rs. 1.75 lakh from his personal account. He also donated Rs. 25,000, a day's expense towards feeding 16 tigers housed in the Zoo.

VOICE OF THE READER

Property Tax Payment 2020-21: Suggestions to MCC

Sir,

Citizens are anxious to pay property tax for the current year. But the Coronavirus has become a stumbling block. A few simple suggestions have been made keeping in view the present lockdown situation. The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) appears to be not equipped to implement the online payment for this year also. Putting together all suggestions, a simple method on following lines may be looked into to receive tax to augment revenue.

1. MCC has to provide bank details with Account Number, IFSC code etc., through local newspapers and any other way by opening a new account for this purpose.

2. Tax payers to be requested to remit through their bank account an amount equal to last year (as per receipt) with property number/SAS number/ or distinct number etc., as suffix in NEFT to enable MCC to afford credit to property owners' tax account. If suffix is not given, the credit will not go to designated property owner ending in hardship to tax payers.

3. A new e-mail ID to be created by MCC specifically to receive information about tax payment from property owners with details of NEFT remittance, copies of previous year SAS form, tax paid receipt etc. and mobile phone number. One more set of hard copy to be sent by property owner through speed post duly mentioning address and mobile number.

4. After receipt of credit to MCC account followed by previous year papers, an SMS has to be sent to tax payer followed by e-mail if ID is given by property owner. A receipt may be sent to property owner through speed post and e-mail.

This procedure will totally avoid people coming in contact and stay healthy. Later MCC may decide the changes in tax rates if any, collect next year tax by consolidating for two years and deducting the amount already paid.

— M.R. Rangarajan
on e-mail

Gokulam II Stage
20.4.2020

Doctors, Nursing staff who treated COVID-19 positive patients quizzed

Mysuru, Apr.22- As part of the efforts to trace the origin of COVID-19 spread and to contain further spread, the Mysuru District Health authorities are questioning the doctors and other supporting staff of two private hospitals that had treated P52, the first positive patient from Nanjangud-based Jubilant Life Sciences (Jubilant Generics) and P-369, the patient with Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) from Mosambayyanahalli village.

From P52, now under quarantine at a private hotel taken over by the District Administration, the disease has spread its tentacles to more than 60 persons, all employees of the Pharma Company. In his statement to the District authorities, P52 has stated that on Mar. 13 (Friday) he fell ill while he was working at his office and after coming home, he consulted his family Physician who gave him some medicines.

The next two days were Saturday and Sunday and on Mar. 16, he went back to work and returned home without any signs of fever. On Mar. 17, though he was unwell, he attended a friend's house-warming ceremony in Mysuru with four other colleagues.

On Mar. 19 he went again to the family Physician who did a blood test and the next day he went to a hospital where his chest X-ray was taken and he was admitted to that hospital.

On Mar. 22, another X-ray was done and the next day (Mar. 23), the doctors diagnosed the illness as pneumonia and took a swab sample. Later he was told that it could be COVID-19 and on Mar. 26, it was confirmed to him that he had COVID-19 and was taken to the designated COVID-19 Ward at K.R. Hospital.

Now the authorities are questioning the hospital doctors and nursing staff who have treated P52 to contain the disease spread. Also, the authorities are questioning the doctors and medical staff who have treated P-369 who has SARI symptoms. He hails from Mosambayyanahalli village near Varuna.

Patient from Mosambayyanahalli

The 72-year old male patient is said to have first visited the nursing home for OPD consultation for respiratory problems. The patient is then said to have got admitted at a private hospital, according to the medical history available with the doctors at the COVID-19 Hospital where he is currently undergoing treatment.

As the patient was confirmed positive, the authorities sealed the Nursing Home last Thursday and all the doctors, nurses and other staff were put under quarantine. District Health authorities are collecting personal data of the patient which would help them in contact tracing.

They are also questioning OPD nurses, counter staff and security guards too regarding the contacts of the patient and all the spots he had visited. The authorities are collecting information on the other outpatients and inpatients, their attendants and all staff of the Nursing Home on the day the patient visited for OPD consultation.

While Health Officials are yet to find the source of his infection, doctors are worried over his respiratory condition. The man had been a smoker throughout his life and he used to smoke at least four to five packs of beedies, every day. The District Administration has arranged a cardiologist to treat him. Contact tracing of P-369 has yielded some results as 60 of his primary contacts have been traced. In Mosambayanahalli that has been sealed now there are over 370 houses.

'Mysuru will be Virus-free District soon'

(Continued from page 1)

Stating that the District Administration will take measures for home delivery of essential articles and food items to households of senior citizens, he said that the Department has introduced Telemedicine and Tele ICU through which doctors will send prescriptions based on the symptoms of any disease.

Pointing out that Tele ICU will have Cardiology faculty and other multi-specialty faculties, he said that this facility plays a crucial role in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Asserting that Karnataka stands first in COVID-19 screening, the Minister said that so far 22,843 persons have been tested in the State and the positive ratio is found to be 1:63.34, which means that only one out of the 63 persons screened has tested positive. Karnataka is followed by Haryana and Kerala in Coronavirus screening, he added.

Referring to the spread of the virus in North Karnataka, he said that more tests were necessary and as such 17 labs have been set up there and this number will be raised to 30 in the coming days. Stressing on the need for strict following of Government regulations, he said that it was important to wear face mask and maintain social distancing at least until a vaccine is discovered for Corona.

Download Aarogya Setu App

Highlighting the importance of Aarogya Setu App, he said that everyone should download this mobile App and be conscious of the deadly virus.

Stating that the Government has launched Helpline No. 14410, Dr. Sudhakar said that Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa will sign an agreement with Infosys and release an App on Wednesday. He appealed the people to regularly use hand sanitisers. Referring to the use of disinfectant tunnels at public places, the Minister said that the Government of India has advised against use of chemicals and as such the State Government is thinking of using Bio-organic tunnels.

Strongly condemning the attacks on ASHA workers, he said that the Government will take all necessary steps for ensuring their safety and security at their workplaces.

MLAs L. Nagendra and S.A. Ramdas, MP Pratap Simha, ZP President Parimala Shyam, Mayor Tasneem, Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar and other officials attended the meeting.

Ministers visit Jubilant Generics and AT&S Factory in Nanjangud

Mysuru, Apr. 22- Ministers Dr. K. Sudhakar and S.T. Somashekar yesterday visited Jubilant Generics Pharmaceutical factory at Nanjangud, the epi-centre of Virus spread in the district.

Dr. Sudhakar, who went around the factory, sought inputs from the factory officials regarding the number of employees, the production of medicines and their export.

The officials told the Minister that the factory has employed over 1,500 workers and the manufactured drugs are exported to several countries. They also informed the Minister that used water was recycled before letting it out. Nanjangud MLA B. Harshavardhan, who intervened, said that the factory has been at the centre of controversy ever since its inception and waste water is being let out untreated, posing a serious health risk for people and cattle.

Test water samples

After the MLA's complaint, Medical Education Minister Dr. Sudhakar directed DC Abhiram G. Sankar to test waste water released from the factory once in every three months and to send water samples of borewells drilled in villages located in a km radius of the factory.

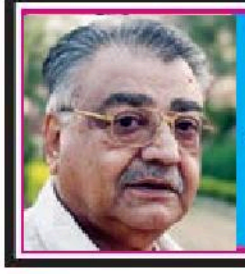
Thereafter, the two Ministers visited nearby Koogalur village, which has reported COVID-19 infections and took stock of the situation.

Gundlupet MLA C.S. Niranjan Kumar, Mysuru SP C.B. Ryshyanth, DySP Prabhakar Sindhe, Nodal Officer Srinivasagowda, Tahsildar K.M. Mahesh Kumar, Taluk Medical Officer Dr. Kalavathi and others were present.

Visit AT&S Factory

Dr. Sudhakar and S.T. Somashekar also visited AT&S Factory at Nanjangud, which is manufacturing PCBs (Printed Circuit Boards) for Ventilators, which is a critical medical equipment in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

The Factory Managing Director Sunil Bansari explained about the working of the unit and also handed over a Rs.20 lakh cheque to the Chief Minister's COVID Relief Fund. The Ministers lauded the contribution of the factory, which has supplied 15,000 Ventilator PCBs so far as ordered by the Government.



Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Remembering Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj – 16

Coronation of Shivaji in June 1674

[Continued from Apr. 18]

So it was that the coronation was celebrated at Raigad in June 1674. A massive grand, opulent and spectacular preparation was made for a month-long celebration. The coronation ceremony was performed by the greatest of the Brahman Ganga Bhat from Banaras known to be the most sacred city of India, the eternal city.

In the book written by Dennis Kincaid, I was not able to find a single name of those VIP guests who attended from among the Hindu Princes or the Mughal representatives or from the Sultanates. However, he writes "By a curious chance an embassy (representative) from a people with red faces was seen going to Shivaji's court, an English deputation from Bombay." This, I guess, has always been the English genius of diplomacy. No wonder in the next century and after it was British who nudged all other foreign powers in India, first the Mughals, then the Europeans and the remnant of Maratha power and themselves became the rulers!

Be that as it may, the book mentions of Shivaji's food preferences while contrasting it to the huge appetite of the English who ate goat meat in huge quantities. According to the author, Shivaji himself had only one meal a day and that was only Kachori, a sort of pulse and rice mixed together and cooked in butter.

At one point of the prolonged coronation ceremony, Shivaji's mother Jijabai aged over 80 years was brought before the happening place of the ceremony in a litter, a cushioned seat carried by men. Shivaji got down from his seat and prostrated himself in obeisance at her feet while she blessed him by placing her hand on his head.

Then began further ceremonies for three days. It is best for me to quote the author at this point and leave it to our readers the role of the Brahman Ganga Bhat in preparing a non-Brahman Shivaji to wear the crown as a Hindu King.

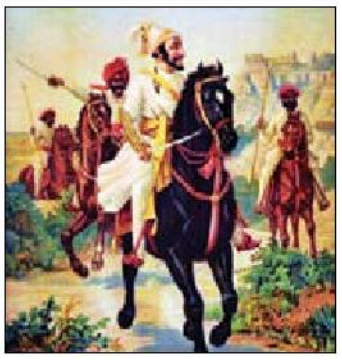
"At last adjudged free from sin by the priests, he was invested by the Arch-Pontiff, Ganga Bhat, with the sacred thread, the badge of the twice-born and in his ear was whispered invocation to the sun which only the twice-born (a Brahman) may learn." I think the whispered invocation could be the Gayatri Mantra.

"Now in imitation of Mughal royalty Shivaji was weighed against precious metals and jewels, spices and wine and fruits and brocades all of which were distributed to Brahmans."

It was on June 6th 1674 the rites of the coronation proper began. Shivaji entered the great hall of the Palace with his queen-consort Soyra beside him, their robes being knotted together and behind them came Shivaji's mother and son Sambhaji followed by his eight Ministers. He approached his throne with a canopy of a gold cloth from which pearls hung in festoons. He mounted the throne to the booming of the guns in the city. Sixteen Brahman women advanced towards Shivaji and performed arati with burning lamps for good omen. His crown made of flowers were removed and in its place he put on a turban hung with tassels of jewels. The Pontiff Ganga Bhat immediately raised above his head the pearl-studded gold umbrella of imperial sovereignty. Immediately, the soldiers clashed their shields on the spears held by them even as the crowds cheered aloud victory for their King-Emperor.

Thereafter, Shivaji, the new Emperor, descended from his throne, walked across the hall and mounted a caparisoned elephant of the State and went in procession on the main thoroughfares of his capital Raigad.

Soon after the coronation, the season of monsoon set in and it began to rain. Everything looked good for Shivaji's mother Jijabai who had lived to see her son, whom she had brought up in loneliness and poverty, as already mentioned in the earlier articles, crowned as a Hindu King in the midst of Muslim rulers all around. It seemed to Jijabai as though she had nothing further from life to desire. But a few days after Shivaji's coronation, Jijabai fell ill and she realised she was nearing her end. As a woman of great prudence and experience,



she ordered that all her personal goods and possessions be distributed to poor. On the fifth day of her illness, she died. Needless to say his mother's death was a great blow to him.

For two years after his coronation, Shivaji as an Emperor (Chhatrapati) had a peaceful life without any military or administrative activities. Then in 1676, Shivaji fell seriously ill but soon recovered with a changed attitude towards life. To the shock and surprise of everybody, he declared his intention of abdicating the throne and leading a spiritual life as a religious mendicant. Though he was dissuaded from taking this unexpected and disastrous step, nevertheless he would disappear from his palace and wander alone in the forest and sit in meditation near a pool or under a giant tree.

Back in the palace, he gave up sleeping on the soft royal bed and preferred to sleep on a peasant's bed made of wood and string. His first wife had already died and her son, the heir-apparent to the throne, Sambhaji, was growing up, unfortunately into a reckless man. Shivaji was not able to get him under control. It may be mentioned that he was the one who accompanied Shivaji to Delhi to Aurangzeb's Court. He was looked after by his second wife, queen-consort Soyra, who wished to have her own son Rajaram to inherit the throne. Therefore, a palace intrigue was set in motion which further disturbed Shivaji who wanted his eldest son Sambhaji to ascend the throne.

At the end of 1676, Shivaji recovered fully from his illness and also from his illusion of becoming an ascetic. He appeared to have regained his youthful vigour and decided to go on a last and greatest campaign to expand his Kingdom further, into the South West corner of India.

It was a time when Aurangzeb, because of his increasing religious bigotry, had alienated all his Rajput officers including Jaswanth Singh, who was the Governor of Deccan. According to historian Dennis Kincaid, Raja Jaswanth Singh, who died in 1678 (two years before Shivaji's death in 1680) had dictated in his death bed a letter to the Emperor Aurangzeb in which he said, "God is the God of all mankind, not the God of Mohammedans alone. To vilify the religion or customs of other men is to set at naught the pleasure of the Almighty."

Shivaji realised that Mughal armies in the Deccan acted mostly on the defensive even after hearing of Shivaji's proposed campaign along the Southern provinces. To neutralise the Mughal army while he went on his Southern campaign, Shivaji secretly sent a huge bribe to the Mughal Command-in-Chief. Then Shivaji set out from Raigad at the beginning of the new year with 70,000 men. First, he crossed Bijapur Territory without resistance and arrived at the borders of Golkonda, the richest kingdom ruled by a member of the Persian Qutabshahi dynasty by name Abuhussein, owing allegiance to the Mughal Emperor by paying heavy tribute. Golkonda was known for its diamond mines and gems. It also held the monopoly of alcohol especially the palm liquor, toddy. Another source of income was the brothels, more numerous than in any other Indian city. The brothels were also the distributing centre of toddy for obvious reasons thus increasing the sale of liquor and contributing to the State's revenue.

After negotiation, the Golkonda Sultan agreed to pay tribute to Shivaji. After staying as Sultan's guest for a few days, Shivaji continued his campaign and began to capture many forts on the way like Ananthpur, Jinji near Vellore which was fought and won from the Mughal army administered by Bijapur officer. Marching forward, he captured Vellore Fort after giving a fight and thereafter went to Thanjavur which was ruled by Shivaji's step-brother, son of Shivaji's father Shahji's another wife Tukabai.

According to one version, from Golkonda, Shivaji asked his army to march towards the Karnatak border. Crossing the Krishna river, Shivaji, to everybody's surprise, asked his Army Generals to continue the march towards South. He, however, slipped away from the army and accompanied only by Hanumante, the successful Brahman envoy to Golkonda, he visited the famous temple of God Shiva at Srisaila.

For ten days, he remained in the temple fasting and in constant prayer. It was Hanumante who persuaded him to leave the temple and join his soldiers who would be leaderless without him. At last, he rejoined his army in Ananthpur. From here he headed towards Thanjavur which was ruled by Shivaji's half-brother Venkoji representing Bijapur Sultan. Afraid of Shivaji's arrival with a huge army, Venkoji timidly offered to negotiate. Being used to negotiation, Shivaji too invited him to his camp. However, Shivaji, suspecting his half-brother's good faith, demanded that five members of his delegation be given to Shivaji as hostages.

Venkoji was angry and defiant of Shivaji's proposal. After a week of bargaining, Venkoji escaped by night from his brother's camp and begged other Sultans for help, including the great Mughal. Shivaji could have kept five hostages with him but he was kind to these trembling hostages and sent them away with presents and robes of honour.

After nearly a year in hiding, Venkoji finally surrendered to Shivaji. Shivaji, however, gave his step-brother the town of Thanjavur and some lands but he was to be under the supervision of Shivaji's Ministers and the Brahman Hanumante, who in fact became the real ruler of Thanjavur. As for Venkoji, totally depressed by this disgrace, he adopted the life of a religious mendicant. By 1678, Shivaji had not only conquered Karnatak but also Mysore and beyond, leaving behind a large army in charge of his Generals and returned to his capital Raigad with an enormous amount of plunder. The time taken for this apparently effortless military operations by Shivaji was just 18 months.

[To be continued]

e-mail
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In this week's Pet Talk, Maneka tells about the steps to be taken to help street animals during summer

Pet Talk

Maneka Gandhi

Does a person require a licence to engage in animal selling activities?

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change notified the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Pet Shop) Rules, 2018 in the wake of a series of representations made by Humane Society International/ India and People For Animals, showing the cruelty found in the pet shop industry. According to these guidelines, one needs to obtain a licence to run a pet shop. Any shop selling animals without a licence has to be shut down by the Municipality and district head immediately, and the owner arrested. Pet shops often grossly violate the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 by blatantly selling wild animals. Trading, killing or trading any object obtained from the animals protected under the WPA, 1972 can attract a jail term up to 7 years with fine not less than ten thousand rupees.

During summers what steps can I take to help street animals?

Excessive heat during summers makes it unbearable for street animals. Lack of food, water and shade makes it even more difficult.

However, as citizens of this country, we have certain duties towards the animals.

During summers one could:

Make sure to get clay pots (Mitti ka Bartan) and place them at several places under a shade, within your everyday reach or just in front of your house.

Every day, while going to work/school, make sure to fill the pot with water.

If possible, form a group of people/volunteers and allot them pots to fill and spread awareness about the cause. If you have a park outside, keep the soil watered as it makes a cool place for community animals to rest. You should plant trees so that birds have places to nest and food to eat.

How to fly kites without harming birds? What are the times that I shouldn't fly kites?

Don't fly kites between 6 am and 8 am: Birds go out of the nest to look for food.

Don't fly kites between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm: Birds return to their nests.

Don't use glass coated Majha.

Call a vet or animal protection group if you see an injured bird.

What is seed bombing?

Seed ball consists of a variety of different seeds rolled within a ball of clay. Various additives may be included, such as humus, cowdung or compost. Dropping of these seed bombs is called seed bombing. It is also called aerial vegetation.

What are the symptoms of rabies in cats?

Pica, fever, seizures, paralysis, hydrophobia, dropped jaw, inability to swallow, muscular lack of coordination, unusual shyness or aggression, excessive excitability, constant irritability and dripping salivation.

Why shouldn't the horses be used in marriages?

Indian wedding horses are made to stand for hours together and walk for more than 30-50 kilometres. They are hardly given anything to eat. With the hearing of loud noises during the baraat walk, many of them turn permanently blind, deaf and lame. They are kept in check by pulling at the bits in their mouths and this knocks out their teeth and damages their tongues as well.

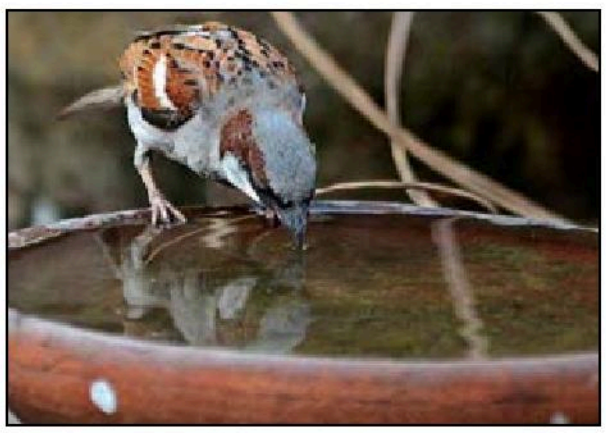
Indian breed dogs are considered much healthier than the foreign breed dogs. Why?

Indian breed dogs have better immunity than foreign breed dogs. Indian dogs can survive much better in Indian weather conditions because they are born for it.

Would you survive in Alaska as well as an eskimo child?

In the same way, foreign dogs bred for their weather conditions are not suitable for Indian conditions.

*It is argued that animals kill other animals for food, so humans can as well.



What could be the rebuttal to this?

Carnivorous animals cannot survive on a plant-based diet, but humans can. Animals cannot alter their behaviour, but humans surely have the intelligence to choose between behaviour that inflicts pain and the one that doesn't.

Can ticks in dogs be transferred to humans?

In absence of dogs and cats, ticks can attach themselves to humans. Ticks can also irritate human skin, especially when people are allergic to the tick saliva protein. The bitten region of skin could develop blisters, bumps or rashes which may be itchy and inflamed; scratching the rashes could lead to secondary bacterial skin infections that often require antibiotic or steroidal skin cream for treatment.

What are the laws against chaining animals?

Keeping, or confining any animal chained for long hours with a heavy chain or cord amounts to cruelty on the animal and punishable by fine or imprisonment of up to 3 months or both.

Is it morally right to legalise betting on horse racing?

It is not right to legalise betting on horse racing as this only promotes horse racing which is nothing but torture to animals.

The horse is not a willing participant; they're forced, beaten and drugged to run.

Racehorses are the victims of a multibillion-dollar industry that is rife with drug abuse, injuries, and race fixing, and many horses' careers end in slaughterhouses.

Horses begin training, or are already racing, when their skeletal systems are still growing and are unprepared to handle the pressures of running on a hard track at high speeds.

Improved medical treatment and technological advancements have done little to remedy the plight of a racehorse. Horse racing isn't as glamorous as it seems, it is a cruel sport. It earns money on animal pain and is only done by the vilest of the vile.

Is it true that the world will perish without bees?

As far as important species go, they are top of the list. They are critical pollinators: they pollinate 70% of the crop species that feed more than 90% of the world. Honeybees are responsible for $30 billion a year in crops.

That's only the start. We may lose all the plants that bees pollinate, all the animals that eat those plants and so on up the food chain. Which means a world without bees could struggle to sustain the global human population of 9 billion. Our markets would have only a few fruit and vegetables which were raised by hand, making them superlatively expensive. Even if humans survive after the bees go, it will be a miserable existence.

We are losing bees at an alarming rate. Possible reasons include the loss of flower meadows, the crab-like varroa mite that feasts on their blood, climate change, and use of pesticides. This issue must be given more seriousness.

Is it okay to judge people based on their attitude towards animals?

I do. People who don't like animals, or people who insist that they cannot eat anything but meat, make me very wary of their character. Selfishness, ignorance, bestiality, a lack of empathy… all these are traits that harm other human beings as well.

There is a lot of evidence that there's a strong link between animal abuse and domestic violence. In fact, in many countries where animals are found abused or neglected social services are then called to check on the children. In most cases psychotic tendencies can be first noticed through animal abuse.

To join the animal welfare movement contact
gandhim@*nic.in*
www.peopleforanimalsindia.org

PFA HELPLINE

Savitha Nagabhushan - 9845654429
DOGS, PUPPIES, CATS, KITTENS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION [Contact: Ph: 0821-2598213]
Timings: 8 am to 8 pm

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS

Readers with queries about their pets health, care and behavioural issues may send their questions to *SOM : voice@starofmysore.com*

Day or Night... Roads are Calm 'n' Quiet...

When people are yet to come to terms with the loss, both human and economic, incurred by the 'LOCKDOWN' war waged against the pandemic globally, Mother Earth seems to be enjoying the pollution-free roads and falling asleep with silent lullaby. This, otherwise busy Hunsur Road with cultural hotspots Kalamandira & Rangayana to its left and Regional Commissioner's Office & Jaladarshini Guest House to its right, was captured by SOM Photographer M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav.

CESC steps up bill collection drive

Consumers maintain social distancing while remitting the amount at CESC-designated spot near Ballal Circle on Tuesday.

(Continued from page 1)

Consumers are requested to pay their electricity bills as per their previous month's average bill amount, online through debit card, credit card, internet banking, wallet payment, UPI payments, Pay U App, IMI Mobile App, *KarnatakaOne* website or app. Any difference in amount depending on actual power consumption would be adjusted when the bill collection system is streamlined.

However, such consumers who cannot make digital payments can pay bills at the cash counters at their CESC Sub-Divisional Offices before the due date. Apart from this, CESC will also be sending vehicles to get the March month's bill and pay the average. The bill amount will be adjusted from June's bill cycle.

Call Helpline

Consumers can also call 1912 (24×7 Helpline) and inform the respective CESC divisions of their account IDs and mobile number for obtaining the bill copies through mail, WhatsApp or SMS and then make the payment. They can also log on to ***www.cescmysore.org*** to pay bills online.

'No power disconnection for 3 months but fine will be levied'

Munigopalraju

Power supply will not be disconnected for three months in case of default on payment. However, CESC will levy interest on the power bill amount in case of delayed payment, as per rules.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, CESC Superintending Engineer (Mysuru Circle) K.M. Munigopalraju said that arrangements have also been made to send CESC staff door-to-door to collect bill amount either in cash or through cheque only.

All safety precautions like wearing mask, hand sanitising and maintaining social distance will be observed by the CESC staff armed with their ID cards during house rounds and as such the consumers need not worry about the spread of pandemic, he said and sought the co-operation of the consumers in remitting the bills on time and avoiding penalty.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,645
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	2,442
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	2,148
Persons isolated in hospital active cases	:	55
Total samples tested	:	2,593
Samples found negative	:	2,507
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	88
Persons cured / discharged	:	33
Death toll so far in Mysore	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	12
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	427
Persons cured / discharged	:	131
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	17
Total active cases in India	:	15,474
Persons cured / discharged	:	3,869
Death toll so far in India	:	640

(Note: Some of Mysuru data are as on Apr. 21. Media bulletin of Apr. 22 unavailable)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

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